

*Approved Minutes
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
Working Group Meeting
West Palm Beach, Florida
April 19, 2005*

Welcome and Introductions

Jay Slack called meeting to order at 1:05 PM. Agenda (Encl. 1) and draft minutes presented (Encl. 2).

Working Group Members	Apr. 19	Apr. 20	Alternates
Ken Ammon – South Florida Water Management District	√	√	
Ernie Barnett – FL Dept of Environmental Protection	-	-	
Billy Causey – NOAA, FL Keys Nat'l Marine Sanctuary	-	-	
Alex Chester – NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	√	√	
Bob Crim - FL Dept. of Transportation	√	√	
Wayne Daltrey – Southwest FL Regional Planning Council	-	-	
Dennis Duke - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	√	√	
Gene Duncan – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of FL	-	-	Terry Rice
Christopher M. Flack – Office of the Governor of Florida	-	-	
Roman Gastesi, Jr. – Miami Dade County	-	-	Susan Markley
George Hadley – U.S. Dept of Transportation	-	-	
Richard Harvey – Environmental Protection Agency	-	-	
Norman O. Hemming, III - U.S. Attorney's Office	-	-	
Dan Kimball – National Park Service, Everglades National Park and Dry Tortugas	√	√	
Kenneth B. Metcalf - Department of Community Affairs	-	-	
W. Ray Scott - FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services	-	-	
Jay Slack – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	√	√	
Craig Tepper - Seminole Tribe of Florida	-	-	Alyssa Jacobs
Kenneth S. Todd – Palm Beach County Water Resources Manager	√	√	
Anna Townsend – Bureau of Indian Affairs	-	-	Joe Frank
Joe Walsh - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	√	√	
Jess D. Weaver – U.S.G.S.	-	-	James Smoot
Rick Wilkins - Broward County Department of Natural Resource Protection	√	√	
Ed Wright – U.S. Department of Agriculture	√	√	
Greg May, Special Advisor	√	√	
Ken Haddad, Science Coordination Group Liaison	-	-	Rock Salt

Task Force Update

Greg May noted the Task Force met in February and approved their 2005 priorities (Encl. 3). Jay noted the agenda reflects the priorities and there are many important issues on the agenda.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

ASR Issue Team – Greg May reminded the group that they decided to postpone making a decision on the future of the ASR Issue Team until after today's meeting. Theresa Woody provided a Power Point (Encl. 4) reviewing the significant milestones for the team which was formed in September 1998 to assess large scale CERP ASR implementation. Seven issues were identified by the team and strategies to address them. CROGEE identified three areas (regional science, water quality and local feasibility) requiring more information. Ken Ammon noted they are searching for extremely technical answers and it may be the Issue Team needs to wait and track the schedules and deliverables prior to doing more work.

Status Update – Pete Kwiatkowski provided a Power Point (Encl. 5) noting that by co-locating ASR wells with the reservoirs they are able to capture storm events and provide for longer term storage. Total CERP ASR capacity is a little over 1.6 billion gallons per day with most of the capacity around Lake Okeechobee. The Restudy identified they did not have enough information and envisioned installing Pilot Projects at three locations (Lake Okeechobee, Hillsboro and Caloosahatchee). He reviewed the status of three pilot projects. Design and permitting has started. Two main objectives for the water going in is that it needs to be filtered and disinfected and the water coming out has to be oxygenated prior to returning to canal. All three pilot projects are moving along and are in the latter stages. He reviewed the concerns and challenges associated with each of the three sites. The ASR Regional study will take information from the pilot

projects and tie all the data together and address some of the concerns that have been raised. Pilot projects and regional study are both needed to have a scientific defensible response to those questions that were raised. He reviewed the major tasks currently underway which include but are not limited to well drilling, tracer tests and ground water level monitoring. Some of the ASR systems in Florida have experienced arsenic leaching and scientist's best guess across the state believe that by injecting this oxygenated water into a brackish environment are causing a chemical reaction and causing the arsenic to leech out and this will be investigated further. Near future tasks include completing the designs of all three pilot projects, receiving Record of Decision (ROD) for Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and award construction contract for Hillsboro pilot project. Two years of testing will take them to the end of the decade to complete the Technical Data Report. They will then be able to provide a definitive answer as to the appropriate level of ASR capacity.

Jay asked what the levels of arsenic are and Joe Walsh asked about the form. Pete said he did not know the form and promised to provide that information. The big issue is that the arsenic in the primary drinking water standard is being lowered from 50 ppb to 10 ppb in January 2006 and the municipalities may have a harder time meeting the new standard. The eco-toxicological effect is a big concern and the phenomenon is happening in west central Florida from Tampa to Ft. Myers. There aren't enough wells in southeast Florida but it is a concern and a metals removal facility will be included if needed. The utilities are doing the research along with DEP and it is hoped that they will have more information once they get to that phase.

Ken asked about the effect the difference in pre treatment, chlorine versus UV, has on the leaching of arsenic and asked whether one seems more prevalent than the other. Pete replied it was discovered that one utility in west central Florida switched from chlorination to ozone and the arsenic levels shot up. They are finding levels in the 30 to 50 ppb range. He stressed that that is one disinfection technology they have no intention of doing in terms of CERP and will be using the UV technology. Some sites have exhibited either decay in arsenic over time or dispersion away from the well. Folks in west central Florida are going to be working on this and provide information. Rick Wilkins noted that because of bio availability determinations, DEP raised the soil clean up target levels. Rock said he would take this information to the SCG. He asked what is being learned about the southeast wells. Pete noted that some of the wells are not being operated for one reason or another and some are not being operated as envisioned which does not yield the information they would like to get and they are looking at the wells in SW Florida.

ASR Contingency Plan – Agnes McLean provided a Power Point (Encl. 6) noting that ASR came into the RESTUDY during the plan formulation stage. The Lake Okeechobee ASR moderated lake levels, reduced damaging flows to the estuaries, and provided water storage for water supply. Lower East Coast ASR from C-51 to Site 1 will make those reservoirs more efficient. The Contingency Plan is a back up plan in case some of the ASRs don't work. They will be evaluating different storage options to make up those benefits they found with ASR. They have done some preliminary staff work and cost estimates. They have not done any modeling yet since they do not have a completed CERP update. ASR and Reuse options account for almost half of the O&M costs for the RESTUDY. They have been developing a tool box of options which include additional surface storage, forward pumps, reverse osmosis, desalination and reclaimed water. Ken Todd asked about the amount of water in the Floridan aquifer. Pete replied they have not quantified the volume they can get and as of right now there is no tool out there to answer that question. The Regional model will help determine the maximum capacity and reasonable brackish water yield. Phase I of the modeling will be completed in 2006. Ken said it was his understanding that the use of reclaimed water could be problematic. Ken Ammon said the concept of using reclaimed water either directly or indirectly to recharge surface water canals. There is a significant amount of water from the regional system imported to combat salt water intrusion. They had buy-in from David Struhs and others to do pilot projects to see what potential benefits and impacts may occur. It was stalled at the technical review level because of enhanced environmental concerns and the TMDL issues that were being considered. Legislature directed them to do a pilot project in concert with DEP. Major concerns are with the nutrient loadings that may occur that could have an impact on Class III water bodies. Dry season inflows not near as problematic as wet season inflows. They are working through issues now.

Public Comment

April Gromnicki (Audubon of Florida) said Audubon was glad to see the Contingency Plan moving forward. Additional storage focus should be expanded to look all around Lake Okeechobee. Forward pumps provides access to water already there, however, the water will still be thrown away. Plan needs to look for more storage. Ken Ammon clarified that forward pumps provides a significant opportunity to improve and reduce the levels in Lake Okeechobee although that is the primary consideration.

Next Steps - Jay noted they need to track the status of critical ASR tasks. Ken Ammon pointed out that every issue is being addressed in one fashion or another. Focus should be on timing and resolution of these issues. Pete's group could provide a status update every six months. Joe said he did not hear that they had milestones for the Contingency Plan and they are not providing the public with time tables. Dennis Duke stated they need to get the Initial CERP Update (ICU) rolling before they launch on full scale ASR Contingency Plan development. Dennis Duke noted they have a draft work plan awaiting ICU to plug in the dates. Jay asked whether it was sufficient to receive periodic updates and keep the Task Force informed. Greg noted the seven issues are all being addressed and periodic updates need to be provided to the Working Group and Task Force. Ken Ammon recognized the excellent job the team did in identifying the issues. Rock noted there was a ton of technical stuff that will be provided to the SCG. Dan Kimball made a motion to sunset team and Rick Wilkins seconded with none opposed. ASR Issue Team was disbanded and Lind Friar was asked to notify the members.

CSOP Advisory Team Update

Loly Espino reported the team is now assessing the different alternatives coming from the PDTs. They have put together a technical sub team to look at the results and provide an assessment. They have adjusted their schedule allowing the technical team to review information. Some of the concerns continue to be a lot of uncertainty associated with the Tamiami Trail project, 356 pump station capacity and components to address seepage. Next meeting will be held on May 17th and the SFWMD will provide the members with a helicopter ride over the project area. Team continues to move ahead and hopes to wrap up its work in October.

RECOVER Update

John Ogden provided a Power Point (Encl. 7) reviewing the Interim Goals and Interim Targets noting that much of the specificity as to the "why and how" are laid out in the programmatic regulations. The language in WRDA states that the indicators and predictions will be the primary way they will be tracking whether CERP is on target. He reviewed the organization of the main report adding that the main report contains two major pieces, the regional sections and summary of indicators and goals/targets. Each regional section tells the story and integrates the relationship of indicators in that region. RECOVER transmitted the Interim Goals and Interim Targets Report to the SFWMD, Corps and DOI. The agencies reviewed and approved the RECOVER technical report and the agencies will enter into consultation with the Task Force on the three party agreement. He also reviewed the process and information that will drive the report cards which are planned for annually.

Susan Markley noted Dade County's concern that because of the need to move the report forward, it may make it difficult to adjust a goal in the future. John clarified that the Interim Goals in the report will be formalized in the three-party agreement and these will be the interim goals for this five year period. They will have the ability to report new information to Congress. Stu Appelbaum added that the process for updating will coincide with the five year reports to Congress, new scientific information will not be prohibited. Ken Ammon added that the latest science will be incorporated in the formulation of each of these PIRs. John Ogden added it was important to understand the responses and this is where the annual report cards come in, they will be in a public friendly format and there will be no real surprises. Rock Salt added the SCG is also looking at indicators and will provide a way for the Task Force to know in a broad sense how things are going or not. Ken Ammon added that these goals are probably not going to change over the next ten years and they will always focus in on new and better science. The answer could be that after the first five or ten years they had big uncertainties with the model. At the end of the day don't care about the water what they care about is the ecological responses.

Public Comment

April Gromnicki (Audubon of Florida) questioned whether there was a public notice of the RECOVER Report since many folks may not be aware of its availability. She asked for clarification on the pie chart used in the document. Rock stressed the Task Force would be asked to comment on the three party agreement and that the RECOVER report is what it is. John Ogden added that RECOVER submitted the document to the three parties and they will need to agree on how public comment will take place. The Interim Goals Agreement has to go through the formal process.

Outreach Activities Update

Corps – Brice McKoy provided a presentation (Encl. 8) highlighting some of the many products that have been developed for the two parallel efforts which seek to inform people at the program and project level. They have contracted with Sunshine Communications to assist in reaching out to the communities by attending events around south Florida that are outside of the mainstream. Based on feedback, they are determining whether they are “hitting the mark” and revising information as needed. Materials such as those using “Wayne Drop” are being used in the schools for educational purposes. They are also working on setting up kiosks with interactive programs at non traditional venues such as malls, libraries and airports.

SFWMD – Rhonda Haag reviewed the partnership initiatives (Encl. 9) that are underway with museums, parks and magnet schools as well as a series of radio and television news clips. They will be meeting with community leaders and minority entities in the area as well as working with small contractors to teach them how they can bid on contracts as well as how they can participate in joint ventures with larger companies.

ENP – Dan Kimball noted that at the last meeting he mentioned the Clemson survey the Park Service had asked to be conducted on the attitudes and opinions about the parks as well as CERP. Final report expected for May but the preliminary results of the survey conducted in English, Spanish and Creole show that 45.6% of the 1806 respondents are aware or familiar with the restoration effort and have some basic knowledge and most think the effort will be a clear benefit to them.

Museum Outreach – Mary Plumb reviewed the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) outreach activities as part of the public - private partnership with the Task Force. Outreach plan (Encl. 10a) and progress report (Enc. 10b) provided for background information. Museum has reached 5.3 million people with the message about Everglades restoration. The museum served 1.3 million people at its location and reached 3.9 million people through its offsite efforts. Museum has embarked on its Phase III effort to expand its existing facilities in Ft. Lauderdale and has already raised \$6.6 million dollars.

Working Group - Greg May explained that Jay has asked to develop an outreach package that could be used by everyone. It would provide a strategic overview explaining the three goals of the Task Force. Sandy Soto provided a power point (Encl. 11) requesting feedback on the content and design of the outreach package that would be used in meeting with the counties. Information would be tailored with county specific information. Jay Slack added this is a way to provide information to the local governments and look for potential overlaps and partnerships. This group recognizes that Everglades restoration is not something everyone is up to speed on and it would be useful to have this package when they contact the MPOs, RPCs as well as others.

Ken Ammon suggested identifying entities at the local level that they will work with and ensure they are not being duplicative. Rock Salt asked for clarification as to whether this was outreach or plowing the ground for potential partnerships. Jay said this effort was to seek partnerships and coordinate overarching efforts. Jay asked the Working Group what they wanted to do with its inactive OEEECT team in light of the presentations. Ken Ammon asked where it was that they were not getting the message out and were all the “bases being covered”? Ed Wright suggested they look at the other counties since the Park Service study only covered five counties. Dennis Duke suggested they determine what’s missing before another effort is launched. **Greg said his office would pull together follow-up information to include demographic information based on the presentations from the ENP, Corps and WMD and pick this up at the next meeting.**

Litigation Update

Scott Glazier reviewed several ongoing cases (Encl. 12) which included the US v. SFWMD on the consent decree, SFWMD v. Miccosukee Tribe on the S-9 pumping station, Miccosukee Tribe v USACE on the Interim Operational Plan and the Florida Wildlife Federation v. SFWMD. He added that the settlement has been negotiated on the Hardy - state condemnation case and one of the terms is that the federal case will be dismissed with prejudice.

Legislative Update

Handout (Encl. 13) was provided without discussion.

Working Group Initiatives

Biscayne Bay RRCT – Rafaela Monchek presented the membership roster (Encl. 14) and reported the team met and came to consensus on the objectives for the Action Plan. Next draft will be reviewed at the April meeting and if approved will be brought to the Working Group. She would provide the Working Group members with a report on recent participation by the representatives from the various agencies. Ken Ammon said that ENP was not on the list. Susan Markley noted there has been concern since the team was created as to the whether there is an appropriate balance between government and the private sector. It would also make it difficult to reach a quorum if the team gets bigger and bigger. The attendance record is already recorded in the minutes. Jay Slack noted the membership issue is not causing any glitches and the Action Plan is proceeding and not being compromised. Ken Ammon asked how this team was established and Rock replied that the Florida Legislature recommended the Working Group establish this team. Dan Kimball said it would be helpful to have someone from the Natural Resource Center on this team. Greg noted that his office would provide the Working Group members with a list of who is showing up.

Kissimmee Restoration and Upper Chain of Lakes, Chris Carlson provided a Power Point (Encl. 15) reviewing facts and figures for the Kissimmee Basin noting that agricultural use accounts for 75% of the water demand and a 55% increase is expected. The region's population is also expected to increase by 89%. Her presentation included but was not limited to an update on the Kissimmee River Restoration project, Headwater Revitalization and Upper Chain of Lakes Long Term Management Plan.

Kissimmee Valley Regional Restoration Coordination Team – Theresa Woody reviewed the original team charter (Encl. 16) noting that only two of the original members are still active and many people have stepped up to the plate. She asked the Working Group to assign people to the team or if it decides that the team has served its mission then to sunset it. Joe Walsh noted there is still contention on managing the Chain of Lakes and it is a work in progress. Greg May suggested they send membership list out to the Working Group and change charter to focus and objectives to the Long-Term Plan. Theresa Woody noted that the Long-Term management doesn't cover everything and they need a larger focus than that. Jay Slack agreed they need to look at the charter, provide comments and make sure they have it staffed out and attended.

Land Acquisition Task Team – Theresa Woody reported the Strategy (Encl. 17a) was accepted by the Task Force and the data was current as of June 30, 2004. They will continue on an annual reporting cycle and continue to include County data provided in Appendix E. She noted that Lee County is using this plan to educate their commissioners. She provided a copy of the team's directive (charter) (Encl. 17b) noting a DCA representative is needed and a new Highlands County representative has been added since the last representative passed away in November.

Public Comment

April Gromnicki said they have the list of lands now they need the money. They will need approximately \$2 million just looking at CERP lands. She suggested they direct the Land Acquisition Task Team to focus on matching lands with money to complete the restoration.

Meeting adjourned 6:10 PM.

*Approved Minutes
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
Working Group
West Palm Beach, Florida
April 20, 2005*

Welcome and Administrative Items

Jay Slack called meeting called to order at 8:35 AM. Minutes approved without objection. Bob Crim from the Florida DOT central environmental office introduced himself as the new representative on the Working Group. FDOT plans on having a more proactive involvement early on with CERP and Acceler8 projects. Joe Walsh announced the fourth annual law enforcement memorial golf tournament will be held on Saturday June 11th. His office has been reorganized and CERP and Critical Project activities will be shared and handled by his office as well as other divisions and the hope is to have more people involved. Dennis Duke reported the dedication ceremony was held last week on the Invasive Plant Research Facility and the dedication of the C-11 Critical Project was held on the 19th of April. Additional groundbreaking ceremonies planned for the fall. A lot of press regarding the Hardesty memo and hoped everyone would read it for what it is. It was intended for an internal audience to reflect things that everyone should be concerned with and everything is moving forward. Dan Kimball announced personnel changes at ENP to include Tom Van Lent's departure to go and work for the Everglades Foundation. He reported seeing the Kissimmee River Restoration and said it was amazing to see the successes. Ken Ammon announced there would be a going away party for Henry Dean on May 10th. Jay Slack announced the FWS has proposed the reclassification to threatened of the American crocodile. Ed Wright announced David Legg, Area conservationist has retired and will be replaced by Jeff Smith and a new Task Force representative will be announced. Alex Chester invited everyone to attend the technical workshop to be held in Ft. Pierce in June and NOAA will present the results of its St. Lucie estuarine ecosystem studies. There are two parts to the study, one of which is an eight year database collected by Joan Browder looking at the prevalence of abnormalities in estuarine fishes where she has been able to show a correlation of these abnormalities with freshwater. Second part is being conducted by the National Ocean Service (NOS) which has been looking at eco-toxicology in that area.

Corps Update and Discussion

Dennis Duke provided a Power Point (Encl. 18) reviewing the projects they will have at various stages for consultation with the Task Force. He reviewed the three parts of consultation (scoping, alternative formulation and draft reports). Scoping consultation includes description, goals and objectives, changes and alternatives that may be considered or options for optimizing the plan. They will be seeking input from the Task Force on special concerns. Alternative Formulation consultation includes description of the Restudy plan and description of alternatives being considered. Draft Report consultation will be for those projects in its final stage of development after the tentatively selected plan has been identified. The draft report for Site 1 is now at this stage. They will be seeking input from the Task Force at the May meeting on nine projects in varying stages of development. Dennis provided a general project update which included but was not limited to Modified Water Deliveries (MWD). A total of 506 tracts have been acquired to date, demolition is underway and the Tamiami Trail GRR is being revised. They are still on tract to have everything acquired by the end of June and award the contract to construct the levy canal pump before the end of September 2005 but will depend on FY06 appropriations. They have two line items in the President's Budget one under DOI for \$25 million and the other under the Corps for \$35 million and will be the first time they propose a split funding for MWD. Most of the DOI funds would go for land acquisition and the Corps funding would go for construction but there are no restrictions. There was discussion at the prior meeting with regards to the land owned by ENP. Dennis clarified that the park owned land is not within 8.5 square mile area.

They are moving forward with the next backfill contract for the Kissimmee River and are trying to complete it by 2010. Three Critical Projects have been completed and they will be implementing and additional three for a total of six out of the nine projects due to the funding cap. The CSOP PDT is working on alternative four with alternative five to be developed in May. The Comprehensive Integrated Water Quality Feasibility Study (CIWQFS) has been divided into three Phases. They have agreed to move

forward with Phase I which is to perform an initial evaluation of the current conditions and the Comprehensive Plan's water quality effects on ecosystem restoration. Part of the challenge is to identify what is in the system and determine the division of federal and state responsibility. He reviewed the schedule and noted the major issue over some items included in the feasibility cost share agreement, one item referred to "mutuality" and they were finally able to reach compromise language which has delayed execution of this agreement by four months. Once agreement has been signed then an update will be provided.

He reviewed the CERP Programmatic Activities to include announcing the third meeting of the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) which will be held on April 24 – 25 in Miami. Final draft of the Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) has been posted MISP on the web. Final draft of the Guidance Memoranda is being reviewed in headquarters. Task Force will be consulted and they will seek concurrence of the Secretary of Interior and the Governor. The Interim Goals and Interim Targets are under review and the Interim Goals Agreement being drafted. The Five Year Report to Congress is being drafted and will be presented to the Task Force for informational purposes at the May meeting.

Acceler8 Update

Ken Ammon provided an update (Encl. 19) on ongoing activities. Projects are spread out around the District and for the last three months the Acceler8 team has:

- Executed \$4.9 million in engineering related services in support of design work
- Completed initial review and data collection on two projects
- Surveys are underway for five projects
- Geotechnical underway for six projects
- Submitted pre-final basis of Design Report (BODR) for C-43 Reservoir
- Completed construction of the EAA Reservoir test cells
- Submitted pre-final BODR for EAA STA Compartment B cell 4

For the next three months they will complete the EAA test cells construction and testing. Finalize BODR for C-43 Reservoir and Cell 4. They will submit pre final BODR for four projects, begin preliminary design on two additional projects and begin BODR on seven reports. The Pre Final BODR is the first draft and is what the public first gets to review during a 30 – 45 day comment period. If there is a change when the tentatively selected plan comes out then it will be up to them to be consistent. The intent is to provide the engineering firms, public, etc the opportunity to comment on issues associated with the parallel track. All the projects except for two have set footprints, land acquisition has been completed and the inflow facilities (i.e., pump stations) have been designed and they are coordinating with their Corps counterparts to ensure they are consistent. Bob Crim asked whether the PIR has to be amended to accept the BODR. Ken clarified the BODR needs to be revised to be consistent with the tentatively selected plan in the PIR. Dennis Duke added the District has agreed that the tentatively selected plan will be what is ultimately implemented. What will be built will be referenced, discussed and addressed in the PIR. They are trying to stay well coordinated but not influence the PDTs. Rock clarified that the final BODR represents the District's preferred plan and the Corps' PIR process will come up with the recommended plan and the District may need to amend their plan to be consistent.

Ken reviewed the C-43 Reservoir Basis of Design Report noting many of the elements included in this report are similar to what will be included in other BODRs. He reviewed the project purpose, reservoir design criteria and implementation timeline and reported that they have made provisions for possible future ASR facility located along the right-of-way. A series of stakeholder meetings were held and several areas of concern were identified including water quality improvement opportunities, seepage issues, runoff/drainage opportunities, flow predictions and assurances, hurricane preparedness and impacts, cost effectiveness and job creation for the local area. Area has a minority disadvantaged outlook and low tax rolls and taking land off the rolls will impact the counties. WRAC Issues Workshop held to address the ability to impound water at the site since the site historically site has high seepage potential. They have enlisted design and construction experts to assist in the development of design standards. The initial design intent of the reservoir is to capture water and provide better flow and distribution to the estuary but they do

not want to degrade water quality. Lee County is concerned with nitrogen and they are planning for test cells similar to what is being done in the EAA to look at ambient water quality and reduction in Nitrogen just through increased detention time. Workshop also looked at cost/benefit and location of pumping stations. Jay Slack said the test cells will be a huge step forward in understanding the nitrogen issue as well as help them know how to build the other reservoirs. He also asked whether there was an idea of how this will help for high flow issues. Ken said the data is included in the BODR and promised to provide the numbers.

Science Coordination Group (SCG) Update

Rock Salt provided a Power Point (Encl. 20) reviewed the three priorities laid out by the Task Force for the SCG. System-wide indicators – vital signs idea developed by the managers trying to develop the vital signs for the restoration at large which is bigger than CERP. Team has focused their last several meetings on reviewing and approving guidelines for selecting indicators/vital signs. SCG has come up with a series of options on the Independent Scientific Review and are pursuing one with the WMD. They have asked Garth Redfield to provide the “honest broker function”. First product they will seek review on is the Phase I Plan approved by the Task Force and those comments would help them as they develop Phase II. They will also have a similar review as they develop the performance indicators/vital signs. They are working to determine whether RECOVER will be able to assist the SCG as they assess the needs and gaps analysis. The next SCG meeting scheduled for May 24th. RECOVER is very interested in working with the SCG but it is a workload issue.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Process

Randy Whitfield noted that similar to this group, the MPOs work with a twenty to thirty year planning horizon. He provided an overview (Encl. 21) of the MPOs which are set up under state statute and federal law. There are twenty six MPOs in the state of Florida and are made up of elected and appointed officials and have the responsibility of long range planning (20 yrs) to coordination of land use and transportation and allocating resources and setting priorities for short term spending. They are also responsible for transporting the elderly, handicapped and low income. He reviewed the various committees and their work products. The transportation planning process involves defining existing land use and economy and projecting future land use and economy as well as future travel demand. He noted that additional information is available on their website. Greg May asked who determines the membership. Randy explained that the makeup is determined by state statute. The Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process is now being used to identify projects which are entered into a database. All that state and federal agencies have access to that program as the MPO is developing its long range plan. Jay Slack said that from a permitting standpoint they have become part of the early planning process and it is very effective.

Preparation for Task Force Meeting

Jay Slack noted Henry Dean’s going away is scheduled following the Task Force meeting. Greg May noted the agenda has been posted on the web and reviewed the agenda items that will be covered for both consultation and information update. CSOP update will also include a request to add Roy Rogers as a voting member and a representative from FDOT as a non voting member.

Public Comment

April Gromnicki (Audubon of Florida) stated the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands will be coming before the Task Force for alternative formulation consultation. However, it never came before them for scoping consultation and this next meeting would be a good time to address some of the scoping issues. The BBCW project is half a project and does not deal with the issue of source water and it deals only with conveyance. Audubon of Florida sent a letter to COL Carpenter and no response has been received to date.

Dennis Duke agreed it was a good point that consultation is coming in at different stages for different projects and he will make sure this is addressed. He promised to check on the status of the Corps’ response.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Meeting Minutes, January 2005
3. 2005 Task Force Priorities
4. ASR Issue Team update
5. ASR Status Update
6. ASR Contingency Plan Power Point
7. RECOVER Power Point
8. Corp's Outreach Activities' Power Point
9. SFWMD's Everglades Restoration Outreach Power Point
10. Museum of Discovery and Science
 - a. Outreach Plan
 - b. Draft Phase II Progress Report
11. Draft Working Group Outreach Power Point
12. Litigation Update
13. Legislative Update
14. Biscayne Bay RRCT Roster
15. Kissimmee Restoration and Upper Chain of Lakes Power Point
16. Draft Kissimmee Valley Regional Restoration Coordination Charter
17. Land Acquisition
 - a. Strategy
 - b. Task Team Directive
18. Corps Update Power Point
19. Acceler8 Update Power Point
20. SCG Update
21. Urban Transportation Planning Process Update
22. Working Group Roster